

Sustainability Committee  
Minutes of Special Meeting  
February 18, 2015

Present: Lynn Stoddard (chair), Paul Shapiro, Vera Ward, Shawn Santesiere, Kristin Schwab, Susannah Everett, George & Joyce Rawitcher (guests), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm by Stoddard.

(Shapiro left the meeting at 6:00 pm.)

Additional feedback on the Mansfield Tomorrow plan was gathered from members, building on the comments from the February 11, 2015 regular meeting. The committee on committees requested guidance from the sustainability committee on whether to form a separate climate action committee. The sustainability committee discussed the great importance of climate change, the need for climate action by the town, and the strong connection between climate mitigation and adaptation and the work of the sustainability committee. The committee members also expressed sensitivity to adding to the growing number of town committees and placing additional burdens on town staff, committee members, and volunteers that a new planning effort would require. The consensus of the group was to recommend the formation of a climate action task force that will report to the sustainability committee and to focus Mansfield's climate change efforts on the climate actions already included in the Mansfield Tomorrow plan rather than initiating a new planning process and developing a new, separate climate change action plan. The task force would be charged with identifying and prioritizing the strategies and actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change woven throughout the Mansfield Tomorrow plan. The sustainability committee would lead in carrying out the prioritized actions identified by the task force. The formation of a task force will be included in the Sustainability Committee's recommended changes to the Mansfield Tomorrow plan. On a motion by Stoddard/Schwab, the committee voted unanimously to accept the comments discussed at the February 11 and 18, 2015 meetings on the Mansfield Tomorrow plan. Walton and Stoddard will draft a letter from these comments that will be submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The committee will have an opportunity to review the letter at the March meeting since the public comment period has been extended.

The January 14, 2015 minutes were approved on a motion by Ward/Schwab. The February 11, 2015 minutes were approved, as amended by Stoddard and Schwab, on a motion by Stoddard/Santesiere.

For the March meeting, Walton will invite members of the Stafford Energy Advisory Committee to talk about the strategies they have used to supply their town with 100% solar energy.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton